

FIG. 1

100

102 RECEIVE AN INPUT ORDER MESSAGE (E.G., ORDER STATUS INQUIRY) OVER A NETWORK, INCLUDING A DOCUMENT ORGANIZED IN A PREDEFINED FORMAT (E.G., XML DOCUMENT).

104 OBTAIN A DATA SET (E.G., ORDER NUMBER AND CUSTOMER ID) FROM THE INPUT ORDER MESSAGE BY USING THE PREDEFINED FORMAT OF THE DOCUMENT IN THE INPUT ORDER MESSAGE.

106 OBTAIN A RESULTING OUTPUT DATA SET (E.G., ORDER STATUS AND LOCATION) BY PROCESSING THE DATA SET OBTAINED FROM THE INPUT ORDER MESSAGE.

108 PROVIDE OVER THE NETWORK THE OUTPUT DATA SET IN A RESPONSE MESSAGE (I.E., OUTPUT MESSAGE) INCLUDING AN OUTPUT DOCUMENT ORGANIZED IN A PREDEFINED FORMAT (E.G., XML FORMAT) SUITABLE FOR USE BY AN ORDERING APPLICATION.

FIG. 2

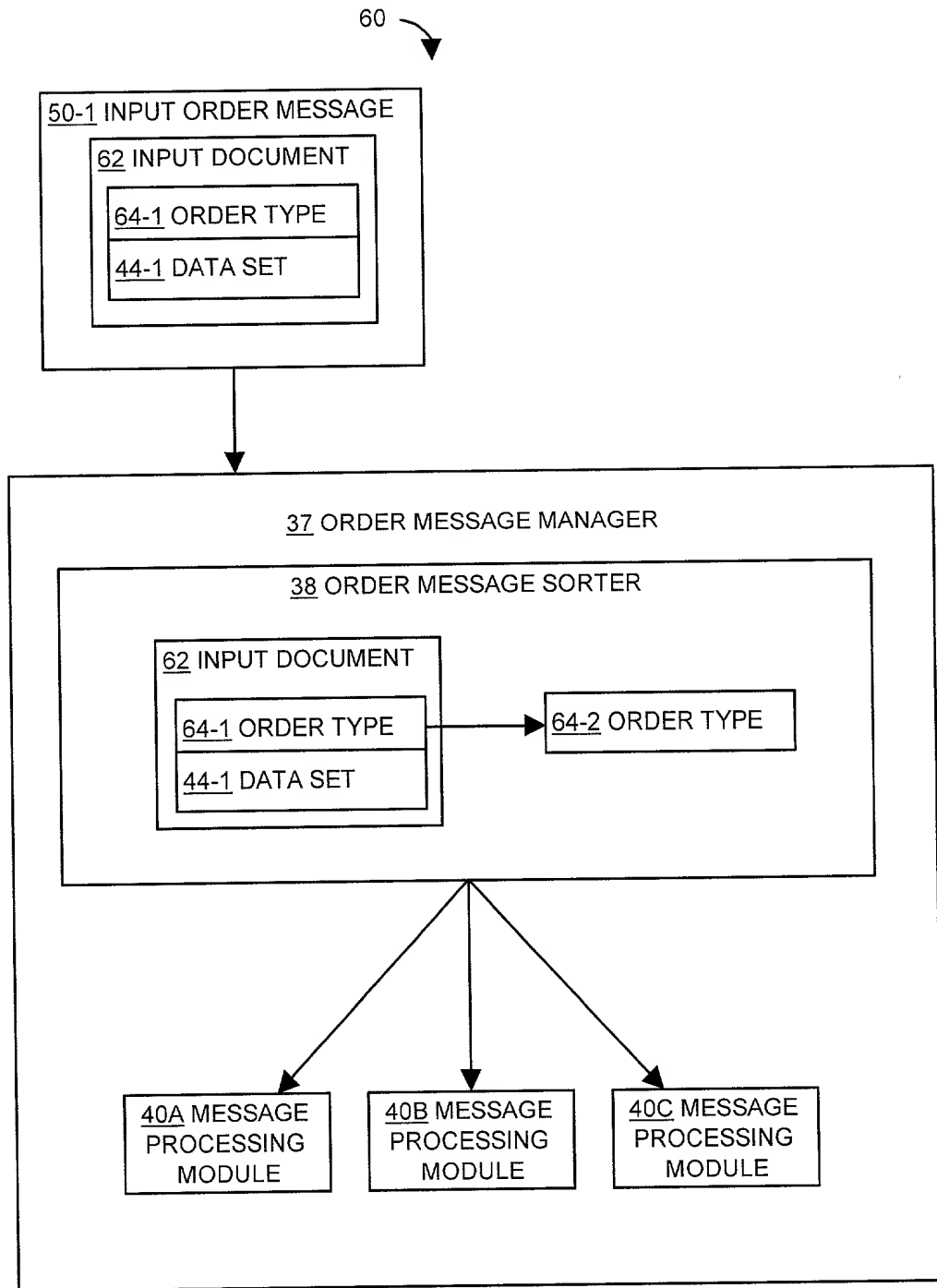


FIG. 3

70

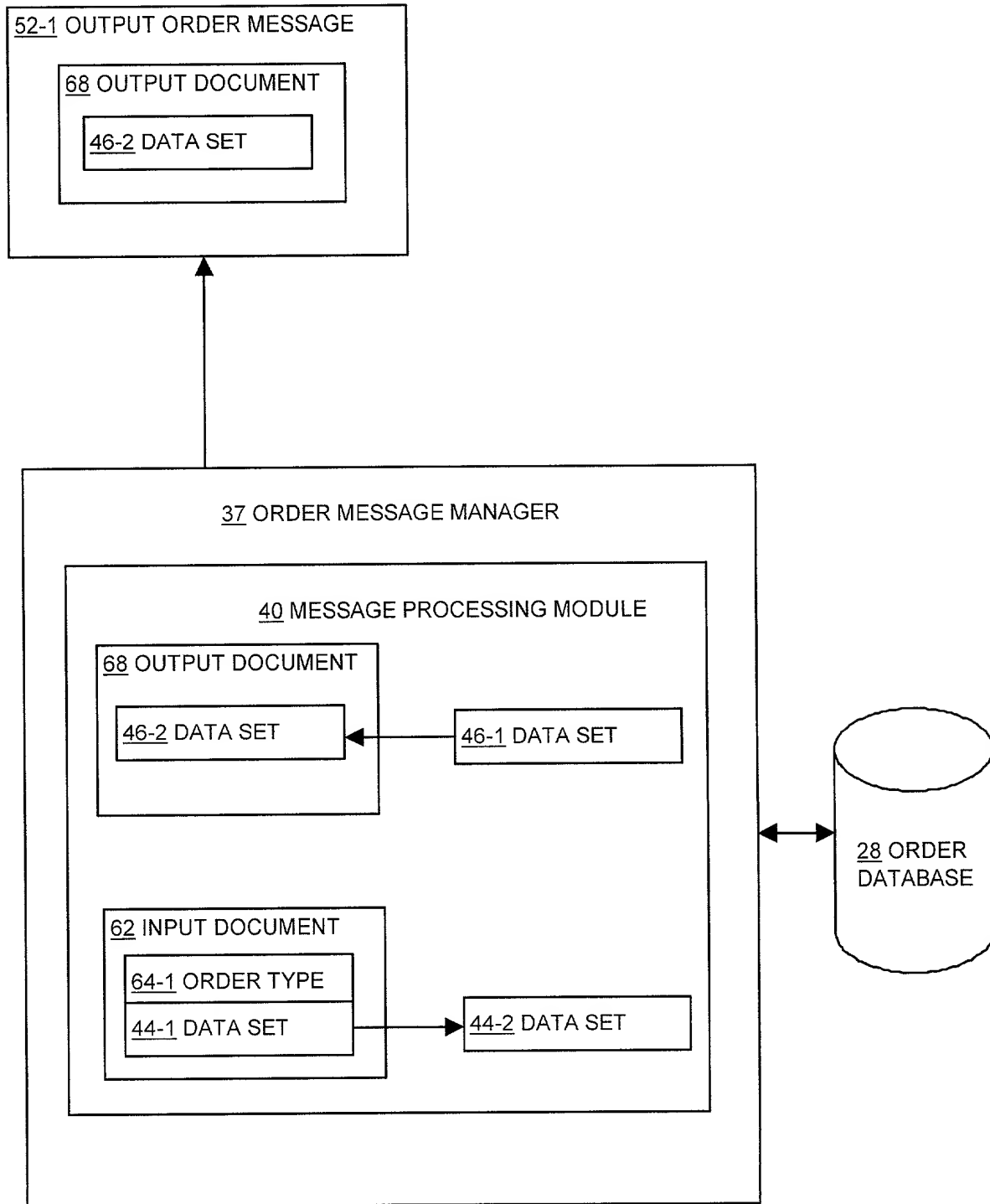


FIG. 4

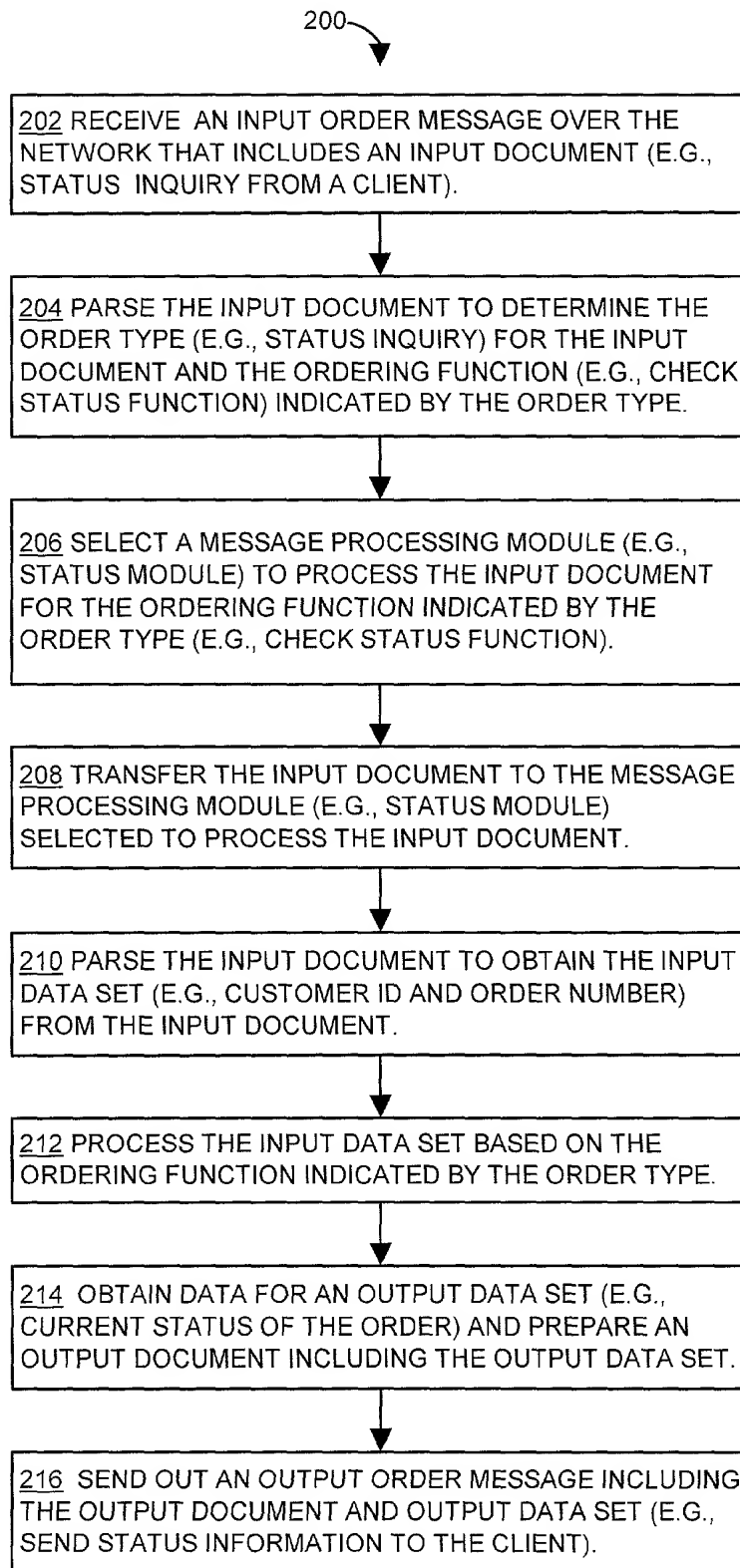


FIG. 5

300-1

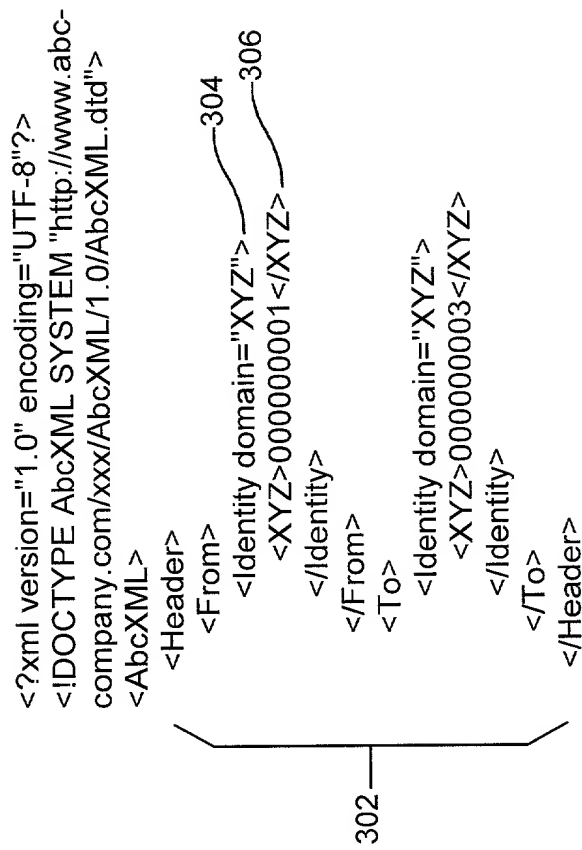


FIG. 6A

300-2

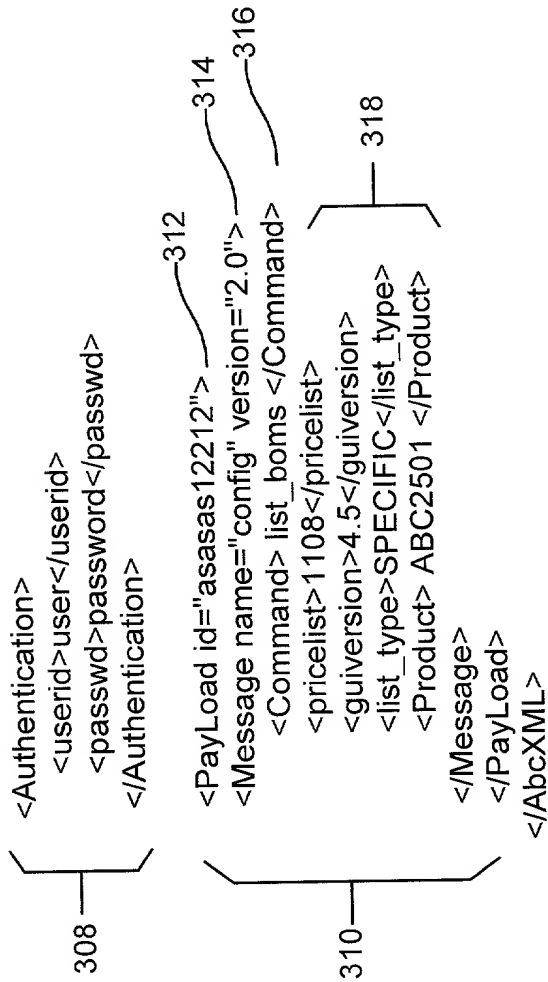


FIG. 6B

330-1

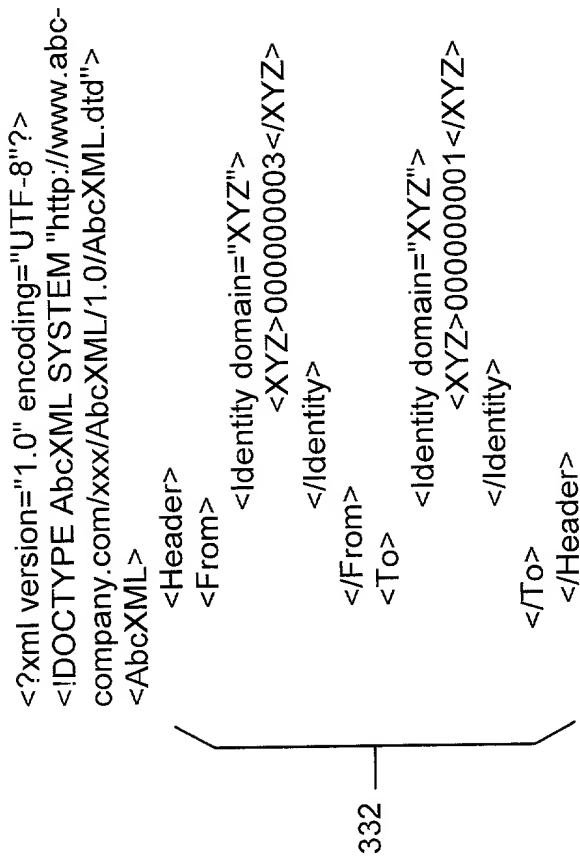


FIG. 7A



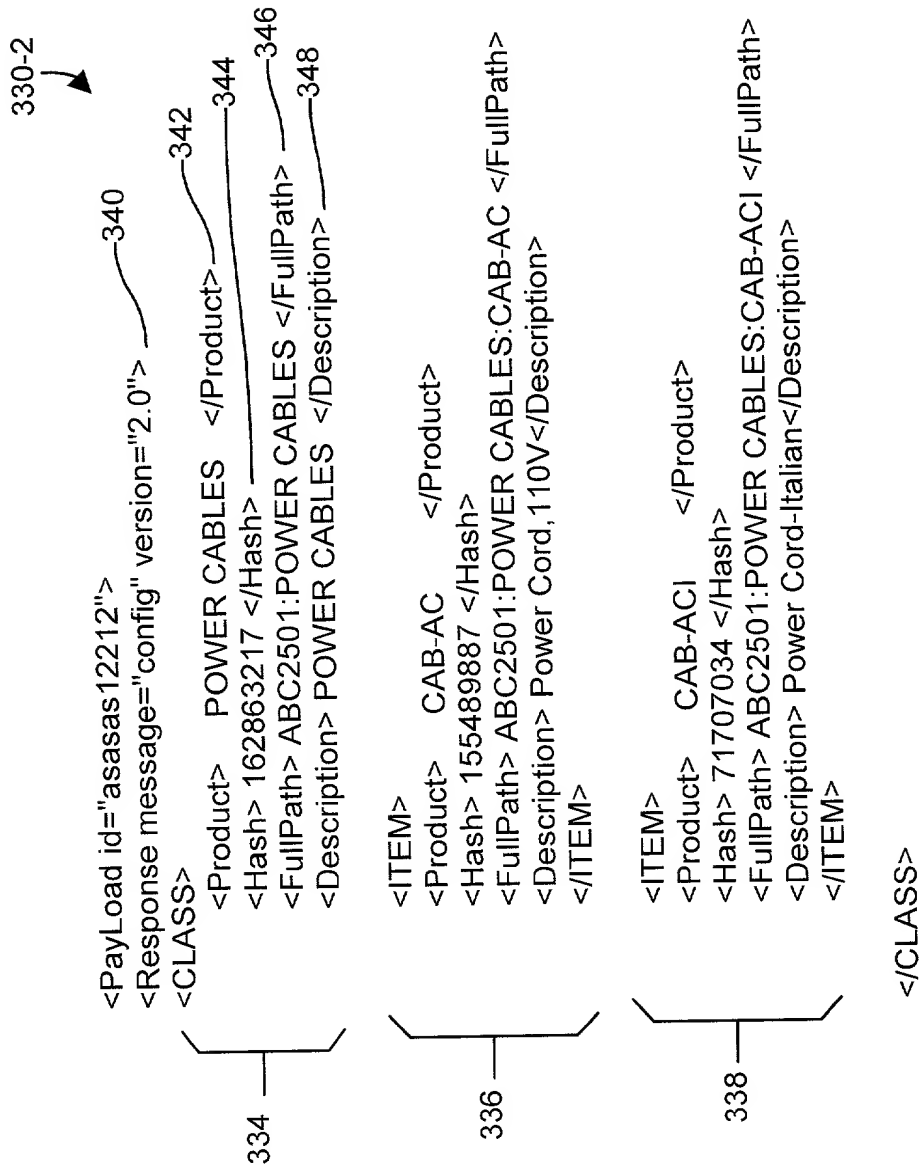


FIG. 7B

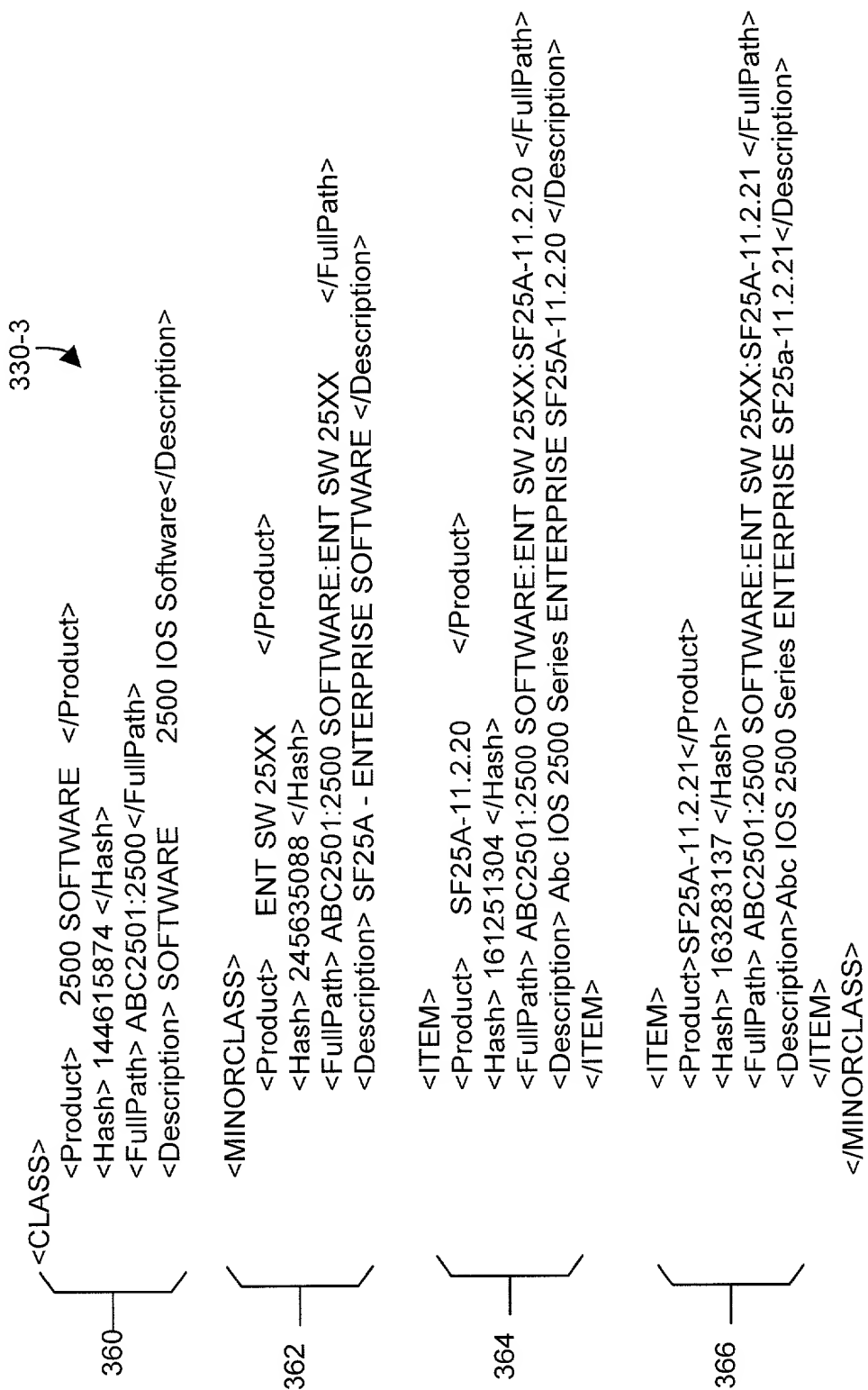


FIG. 7C

330-4

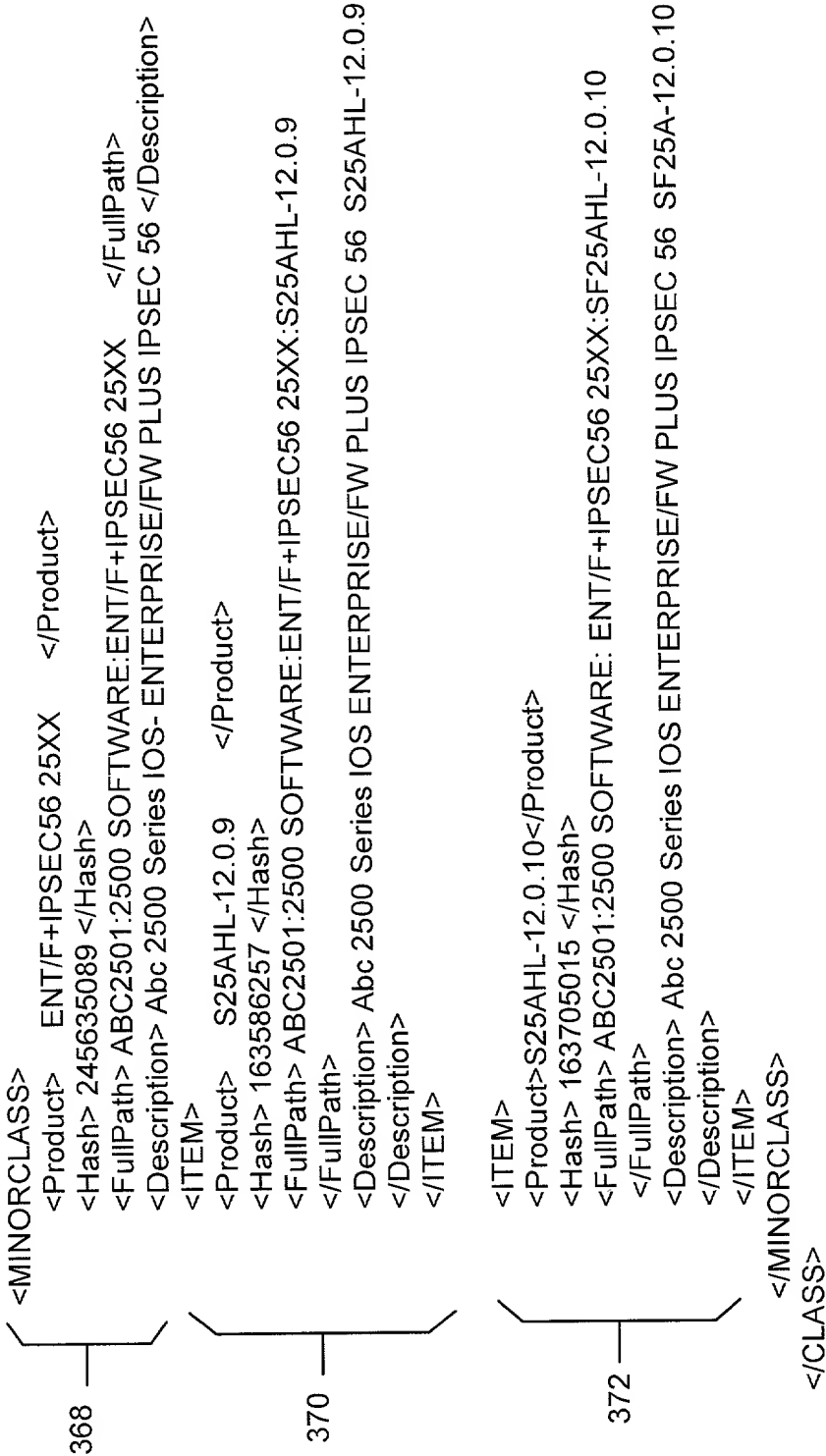


FIG. 7D

FIG. 7E is a diagram illustrating an XML structure for a product catalog. The structure is organized into two main sections, 374 and 376, which are grouped under a common header 330-5. Section 374 represents a 'CLASS' for 'C25K ROUTER DOCS', containing a 'Product' element with a 'Hash' and a 'FullPath' leading to 'ROUTER DOCS'. Section 376 represents a 'CLASS' for 'C25K RACK MOUNT', containing a 'Product' element with a 'Hash' and a 'FullPath' leading to 'RACK MOUNT KITS'. This product is further detailed with an 'ITEM' containing a 'Product' element with a 'Hash' and a 'FullPath' leading to 'ACS-2500RM-24'. The 'Description' for this item is 'RACK MOUNT KIT, 24 INCHES'. The structure concludes with a 'Response' element containing a 'Payload' and an 'AbcXML' tag.

330-5



374 {  
    <CLASS>  
        <Product> C25K ROUTER DOCS   </Product>  
        <Hash> 163008415 </Hash>  
        <FullPath> ABC2501:C25K ROUTER DOCS   </FullPath>  
        <Description> DOCUMENTATION </Description>  
    </CLASS>  
}

376 {  
    <CLASS>  
        <Product>C25K RACK MOUNT </Product>  
        <Hash> 163223347 </Hash>  
        <FullPath> ABC2501:C25K RACK MOUNT </FullPath>  
        <Description> RACK MOUNT KITS</Description>  
        <ITEM>  
            <Product>ACS-2500RM-24</Product>  
            <Hash> 107011873 </Hash>  
            <FullPath>ABC2501:C25K RACK MOUNT:ACS-2500RM-24</FullPath>  
            <Description>RACK-MOUNT KIT , 24 INCHES</Description>  
            </ITEM>  
        <ITEM>  
            <Product> CAB-ACI   </Product>  
            <Hash> 71707034 </Hash>  
            <FullPath> ABC2501:POWER CABLES:CAB-ACI </FullPath>  
            <Description> Power Cord-Italian</Description>  
            </ITEM>  
    </CLASS>  
    </Response>  
    </Payload>  
    </AbcXML>  
}

FIG. 7E